



Standards & Assessment NOTES

California Department of Education

Jack O'Connell, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

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Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program

Amended Title 5 Regulations

At its January meeting, the State Board of Education (SBE) adopted amended Title 5 Regulations for the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program. These regulations are being implemented with Spring 2004 testing. The amended regulations change the state policy on testing accommodations for English learners by:

- Removing the requirement that local school boards develop a policy to identify English learners eligible to use accommodations.
- Allowing all English learners to use accommodations regardless of the amount of time they have been in school.

School districts shall provide English learner pupils the following additional testing variations if regularly used in the classroom or for assessment:

- Flexible setting. Tested in a separate room with other English learners provided that an employee of the school, district, or non-public school, who has signed the Test Security Affidavit, directly supervises the pupil and the pupil has been provided such a flexible setting.
- Flexible schedule. Additional supervised breaks following each section within a test part provided that the test section is completed within a testing day. A test section is identified by a "STOP" at the end of it.
- Translated directions. Hear any test directions the test examiner is to read aloud translated into their primary language. English learners shall have the opportunity to ask clarifying questions about any test directions presented orally in their primary language.
- Glossaries. Access to glossaries/word lists (English to primary language) for the standards-based achievement tests in mathematics, science, and history-social science if used regularly in the classroom. The glossaries/word lists are to include only the English word or phrase with the corresponding primary language word or phrase. The glossaries/word lists shall include no definitions or formulas.

The amended regulations also restrict the use of modifications to students with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Accommodations are allowed for students with either an IEP or 504 Plan.

NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 12001, 33031 and 60605, Education Code. Reference: Section 60640, Education Code: 20 USC Section 6311.

Golden State Seal Merit Diploma Regulations Approved

At its March 2004 meeting, the SBE approved the Title 5 Regulations for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma. Regulations are needed to specify the measure(s) that are to be used to identify students eligible for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma, since the Golden State Examinations (GSEs) are no longer available.

The regulations state that for purposes of the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma:

- "Demonstration of mastery" or "demonstrate mastery" means earning a scaled score of 370 or above on a California Standards Test (CST), as set forth in *Education Code* Section 60642.5, or a performance level of recognition, honors, or high honors on a previously taken GSE.
- Mastery must be demonstrated on six separate, previously taken GSEs or high school level CSTs, not including the Algebra I CST, General Mathematics CST, and Integrated Mathematics 1 CST.
- Students may not use both a CST and a GSE in the same course of study to demonstrate mastery of the curriculum under *Education Code* Section 51452.

CDE expects to distribute the procedures for obtaining and awarding the diploma by late April.

School districts may begin compiling information for seniors eligible to receive the diploma, using CST and GSE results through spring 2003. Districts will receive procedural information forms in mid-April and May, once the regulations receive final approval.

Development Begins on Science Tests for Grades Eight and Ten required by No Child Left Behind (NCLB)

The State Board of Education (SBE) approved a recommendation to administer science tests required by the Federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 for grades eight and ten and adopted the corresponding test blueprints. The eighth grade test will assess only grade eight academic content standards. The high school life science test will assess selected middle school life science and selected high school biology academic content standards. NCLB requires that states annually assess students in science no later than the 2007-08 school year. The tests must be administered once within each of the following grade spans: 3-5, 6-9, and 10-12. The Grade 5 California Standards Test in science that is being administered for the first time this spring meets this requirement.

Additional Tests May Be Added to Academic Performance Index (API)

As the Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999 (PSAA) progresses toward full implementation, changes will occur in the calculation of the 2004 Base Academic Performance Index (API). Results from the elementary science CSTs in grade five and the history-social science CST in grade eight may be included in the 2004 Base API calculations (produced in winter 2005). It is very important, therefore, that all students in these grades take these tests in spring 2004.

Performance Standards for the Grade Five California Standards Test (CST) in Science

The State Board of Education (SBE) approved performance standards for the Grade 5 California Standards Test in science at their March 2004 meeting. Regional public hearings will be conducted in April and May for the purpose of gathering comments from interested parties.

Regional Public Hearings were held:

- Wednesday, April 7, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the Santa Clara County Office of Education – Videoconference
- Thursday, April 8, 2004 at 1:00 at the Orange County Department of Education – Videoconference

The final regional public hearing will be conducted at the SBE meeting in Sacramento, Wednesday, May 12, 2004 at approximately 10:00 a.m. The SBE will consider adoption of the performance standards following the close of this hearing. Interested individuals are encouraged to attend a hearing or share their comments with the SBE: State Board of Education, 1430 N Street, Room 5111, Sacramento, CA 95814; Phone Number: (916) 319-0827; or Fax Number: (916) 319-0175.

2004 STAR Documents Posted

Information for the 2004 STAR administration is posted at

<http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/star>. This information includes 2004 Item and Time Charts for the CSTs, the CAT/6 Survey, and the SABE/2; the 2004 CST-CAT/6 Survey Answer Document; and materials from the STAR Information Meetings. The CST-CAT/6 *Directions for Administration*, *District STAR Coordinator Manual*, and *STAR Test Site Coordinator Manual* are posted at <http://www.startest.org>.

California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)

The first administration of the CAHSEE to the class of 2006 was held February 3-4, 2004. Individual student results from this administration will arrive in school districts beginning April 8, 2004. The second administration of the CAHSEE was held March 16-17, 2004. Individual student results for the March administration will arrive in school districts beginning May 20, 2004. May 11-12 is the make-up administration. This schedule of administrations was developed to help facilitate meeting the federal No Child Left Behind 95 percent participation rate criteria.

Important 2003-04 CAHSEE administration reminders:

- Students may only take the CAHSEE one time during their grade ten school year.
- It is critical that all grade 10 student answer documents (for currently enrolled students) be returned in scorable materials boxes.
- Non-scorable materials boxes are not checked for scorable materials by the contractor.

Important dates regarding the 2003-04 CAHSEE administrations, including ordering test materials and Pre-ID deadlines, can be found on the CAHSEE Project Calendar located on the Educational Testing Service Web site at <http://www.ets.org/cahsee/>.

California English Language Development Test (CELDT)

All English learners must be assessed with the CELDT annually. For purposes of CELDT testing, the beginning of a school year is defined as July 1. This testing requirement will ensure that the CELDT is administered in the same school year in which students are actually enrolled in kindergarten and that results are reported in the appropriate assessment year. This testing requirement will ensure compliance with federal accountability provisions (No Child Left Behind [NCLB], Title III) and state requirements (Ed Code §313, 60810).

Important Notice about Kindergarten Testing

Beginning with the 2005-06 school year, entering kindergarten students with a home language other than English as reported on the Home Language Survey are not to be

assessed with the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) before July 1 of each year.

District Coordinator List Available on Web site

The CELDT District Coordinator List has been placed on the testing contractor's Web site at <http://www.ctb.com>. This list will enable district coordinators to contact CELDT coordinators in other school districts for timely retrieval of student scores to accurately assess new student status.

Test Results Interpretation Guide

A *CELDT Test Results Interpretation Guide*, designed to provide general information to parents/guardians about the CELDT, is available on the testing contractor's Web site at <http://www.ctb.com>. The *Interpretation Guide* has been translated into ten languages and includes:

- A description of the test format
- An explanation of the test scores and how the test results are reported
- An explanation of what the results mean
- Definitions of the proficiency levels

Keeping Data Current

The testing contractor will continue monthly retrievals of completed CELDT materials for scoring. School districts can schedule pickups on-line. School district data files also will be updated monthly and will be downloadable on a password-protected Web site at <http://www.ctb.com>.

2004-05 Test Form D

The testing contractor, in conjunction with CDE staff, continues to make the CELDT more efficient. The format and item types for the 2004-05 CELDT Form D are similar to the 2003-04 Form C. In response to field requests, stop points have been included in the listening and speaking portion of the test. In addition, the new design allows an overall time reduction of several minutes in administration for all portions of the test.

CELDT Dates and Reminders

- Parents are to receive individual CELDT results no later than 30 calendar days after school districts receive them.
- Public release of CELDT 2003-04 annual assessment summary data for schools, school districts, counties, and the state was posted March 18 on the CELDT Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/celdt>.

California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE)

The California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) test date for March 20, 2004 has been cancelled and rescheduled to April 24, 2004. This change will allow

Change in March 2004 Test Date

adequate time for students to register and prepare for the examination. The remaining 2004 CHSPE administration dates, July 17 and October 16, have not changed. The *CHSPE Information Bulletin* and registration materials can be accessed on-line at <http://www.chspe.net>.

California Physical Fitness Test (PFT)

Preparation for Spring 2004 Administration

The *2004 PFT Preparation Manual* has been mailed to county and district superintendents and charter school administrators. This manual can be found on the CDE Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/pe/pe.html>. It is the responsibility of the district PFT coordinator to determine the test administration and data reporting process for all of the schools in the school district. The coordinator should contact school principals and physical education department chairs to begin preparation for test administration.

PFT Reminders:

- School districts must report 2003-04 physical fitness test results to the state by June 30, 2004.
- Senate Bill 1868, signed into law in January 2003, requires that students be notified of their individual results after completing the PFT. In addition, each school shall report its PFT aggregate results in the annual School Accountability Report Card.

PFT Student Data Web Site

The PFT Student Data Web site at <http://www.eddataonline.com/fitness/2003/District> has been created to allow district PFT Coordinators access to their student records for the 2003 PFT results. To acquire a password for this site, each school district and charter school must have a designated Fitness Test Coordinator. To designate a Fitness Test Coordinator, please complete a PFT Contact Survey, located at <http://www.eddataonline.com/fitness/2004>.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Starting April 26, 2004, CDE will have a new Web site. The home page address, <http://www.cde.ca.gov>, will remain the same, but all other links will change. The Standards and Assessment Division documents will be located under the Testing and Accountability heading at the Testing link.